



*We cover southernmost Illinois from Grand Chain to Golconda*

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With a chill in the air, many people are getting ready for the third weekend in October and the 40th annual Fort Massac Encampment. There is a lot of work to do and sometimes an extra hand or 20 can come in useful when trying to set up for the popular event.

Inmates from Dixon Springs Impact Incarceration Program (DSIIP) worked with Fort Massac State Park employees to set up a tent Oct. 8. The crew of 10 were there to help the park staff prepare for the 40th annual Fort Massac Encampment.

Ted Lieper, site assistant superintendent said, already 2000 Boy Scouts will be camping at the park and 2100 students will be at Fort Massac on Oct. 18 for the education day. Lieper said with a staff of five at the park, having the extra help is invaluable.

Jason Henton, superintendent with Dixon Springs IIP, said each day there are about five crews of 10 inmates who go to various locations. Henton explained Dixon Springs IIP was the first boot camp that opened in 1990, with two more boot camps opening later.

Henton said the 120-day boot camp program is an option for non-violent criminals — both male and female — who are sentenced to one to eight years. The decision to enter the boot camp program is up to the person sentenced.